

Orinoco Crocodile, *Crocodylus intermedius*—severely depleted by the hide trade, so that a reserve and captive breeding are urgently needed.

Queen Alexandra's Birdwing, *Ornithoptera alexandrae*—the world's largest butterfly, restricted to a small forest area in Papua New Guinea that is seriously threatened by expanding oil-palm and logging industries.

Hawaiian, or Oahu, tree-snails, *Achatinella* spp.—a genus of 19 varied and beautiful small tree-snails, all endangered because of intensive collecting and the ravages of ants and of an introduced predatory snail (*Euglandina rosea*). Native Hawaiian trees which are their natural habitat are vanishing.

Proposed Danube Dam at Hainburg: WWF Protest and Upheld Injunction

In a formal protest to the Austrian Chancellor, the World Wildlife Fund has expressed indignation at the beating and forcible removal of journalists and demonstrators at Hainburg and der Donau, where the Government has begun cutting down the last-remaining Danube riverine forest in preparation for construction of a controversial power-dam. Accordingly the Director-General of WWF recently sent the following telegram to Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz:

'Have learned that this morning police began evicting by force demonstrators from Hainburg site in order to proceed with cutting of trees before legal questions have been resolved. World Wildlife Fund herewith formally protests against this action, which is unworthy of a democratically elected government.'

WWF-Austria is suing the Government to block clearing of the forest and construction of the Hainburg dam, and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, President of WWF, is leading international opposition to the project. Conservation groups say that it will pollute Vienna's drinking water, destroy a precious stretch of wetland forest, and only add to Austria's present surplus of electrical power!

Late last year, bulldozers completed clearing four hectares of forest after police had removed demonstrators who

clung to the machines. More than thirty persons received hospital treatment after police beatings. A majority of Austrians are against the dam, according to public-opinion surveys.

Subsequently, on 3 January 1985, WWF International was able to announce that a decision by the Austrian High Court to stop the Government from clearing the riverine forest and constructing the proposed hydroelectric dam at Hainburg on the Danube is 'a major victory for conservation'.

The court granted WWF-Austria an injunction to halt the cutting of trees which began before Christmas. The High Court injunction is for two months, but as Austrian law prohibits cutting forests between January 31 and December 1, all work on the Hainburg project is now effectively blocked until December 1985.

In the meantime, WWF hopes that negotiations will convince the Austrian Government to abandon the project altogether. 'The major victory for conservation has wide significance for two reasons'. WWF International's Vice-President Dr Lucas Hoffmann commented:

'Firstly, it underscores the principle that development must not proceed at the expense of natural resources which, once destroyed, cannot be recovered. Development and conservation are equally important human needs, and they



FIG. 1. Amid scenes of violent struggle that are visible at several points, Austrian police overwhelm demonstrators at Hainburg an der Donau. Photo: Karin Momen, by courtesy of WWF News.

can be compatible if environmental impact assessments are properly made in the early planning stages.'

'Secondly, it shows that in a democracy a misguided Government cannot ignore the will of an informed and vigilant public. The conservation movement must be constantly on guard and take every legal remedy to stop environmental abuse, no matter how powerful the offender may be.'

'We have won, at least temporarily, at Hainburg. We won at the proposed Franklin Dam in Tasmania, Australia. But at many other important sites around the world where devel-

opment is proceeding heedless of sound conservation, we will lose unless the issues are publicized and people are mobilized to defend their natural heritage, as at Hainburg', Dr Hoffmann concluded.

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Scientists to Study How Increased Human Activity in Alaska Will Affect Nearby Seas

An international study is being launched to learn how increased fishing, oil and gas drilling, and farming, will affect marine life in the pristine ocean waters bordering northern Alaska. Studies already conducted suggest that, despite the short growing-season, the seas around Bering Strait produce more plant life than most other marine areas. Still, the sources of mineral nutrition for this plant life, and its destination either as part of a food-web or as organic sediment, are only poorly known.

Physical oceanographers, chemists, and biologists, from the United States, Belgium, and Denmark, will study the fate of nutrients introduced from the Yukon River into waters above the continental shelves of the Bering and Chukchi (Chukotskiy) Seas and into the deeper waters of the Bering Sea. The two-years', \$2.5 millions effort will be funded by the US National Science Foundation's Division of Polar Programs and headed by Dr C. Peter McRoy, of the University of Alaska.

Scientists from the Universities of Alaska, Washington,

Southern Florida, and Texas, and from the Brookhaven National Laboratory, will participate in the project called ISHTAR—for Inner Shelf Transfer and Recycling in the Bering and Chukchi Seas. Also participating will be workers from the University of Liège in Belgium and the University of Århus in Denmark.

The project is considered of special importance because it has both basic and applied research values, being designed to gain a basic understanding of what happens to land and marine organic matter when it enters this continental shelf system. Improved understanding will enable scientists to predict future responses of this shelf system to proposed increases in fishing, in oil and gas drilling, and in the cultivation of 500,000 acres (202,500 ha) in the Yukon River drainage basin.

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Review Conference of the Convention Prohibiting Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques*: Final Declaration

Purposes

The States Parties to the Convention reaffirm their strong common interest in preventing the use of environmental modification techniques for military or any other hostile purposes. They reaffirm their strong support for the Convention, their continued dedication to its principles and objectives, and their commitment to implement effectively its provisions.

Article I

The Conference confirms that the obligations assumed under Article I have been faithfully observed by the States Parties. The Conference is convinced that the continued observance of this Article is essential to the objective, which all States Parties share, of preventing military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques.

Having re-examined the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article I, the Conference is convinced that, taking into account the relevant understandings and the present state of technology, they remain effective in preventing the dangers of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques. The Conference recognizes the need to keep under continuing review and examination the

provisions of paragraph 1 of Article I, in order to ensure their continued effectiveness, taking into account any developments which might take place in the relevant technology, and having regard also to the different views expressed in the course of the debate on this Article on the question of expanding its scope.

Article II

The Conference reaffirms its support for this Article containing the definition of the term 'environmental modification techniques'. The Conference is of the opinion that this definition,[†] taken together with the understandings relating to Articles I and II, is adequate to fulfil the purposes of the Convention.

Article III

The Conference reaffirms that Article III is without prejudice to any rules of international law which may apply to environmental modification techniques used for peaceful purposes. The Conference notes with satisfaction that the implementation of the Convention has not hindered the economic or technological development of States Parties. The Conference recalls that States Parties have undertaken to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of scientific and

* This first Review Conference of the Convention was held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, during 10–21 September 1984, under the Chairmanship of Keijo Korhonen, of Finland.—Ed.

[†] 'Any technique for changing—through the deliberate manipulation of natural processes—the dynamics, composition, or structure, of the Earth, including its biota, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere, or of outer space.'—Ed.